



## CATAWBACOUNTY

P.O. Box 389 100-A South West Boulevard Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389 Telephone: 828-465-8201  
[www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov) Fax: 828-465-8392

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### WINNERS OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS POSTER CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Three Catawba County young people were presented prizes as winners of the recent Voluntary Agricultural District Poster Contest, at the July 20, 2009 meeting of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.



**First place winner Alex  
Malyszko of Terrell**

First prize of \$50 went to Alex Malyszko of Terrell. The poster designed by Aaron Morrison, who lives northeast of Hickory, won the second place prize of \$30. Emma Roseman, who resides south of Hickory, won the third place prize of \$20.

The poster contest was open to youth age 9 to 16 as Catawba County begins the use of a Voluntary Agricultural District program created by the Board of Commissioners in the fall of 2008. Poster contest winners were judged by a panel of Catawba County Agricultural Advisory Board members.

“The purpose of the Agricultural District Program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development,”

said Fred Miller, Catawba County Cooperative Extension Director, who assisted with the presentation of prizes to the winners.

“Catawba County recognizes the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well-being of our county and this program is one way to promote the value of agriculture. The purpose of the poster contest was to ask young people to create a poster that will inspire the design for a Voluntary Agricultural District highway road sign. These signs will be provided to each farm participating in the Voluntary Agricultural District Program.



**Second place winner Aaron  
Morrison of Hickory**

Miller is hopeful these signs will soon be prevalent throughout Catawba County's rural areas and serve as a visual reminder of the significance of agriculture in the county.



**Third place winner Emma  
Roseman of Hickory**

First place winner Alex Malyszko, 9, attends St. Mark's Catholic School in Huntersville. He is the son of Mike and Patty Malyszko of Terrell and learned about the contest through a member of his family.

Aaron Morrison, 11, is a student at Webb A. Murray Elementary School. He is the son of Jim and Gerri Morrison and learned about the contest through a newspaper article.

Emma Roseman, 9, is a student at St. Stephens Lutheran School and is the daughter of Glenn and Kecia Roseman. She also read an article about the contest in a newspaper.

The County's Voluntary Agricultural District ordinance led to the creation of the Agricultural Advisory Board to administer the program. The Board reviews and approves applications from land owners who want to have their land included as an agricultural district.

For more information on the Voluntary Agricultural Districts, you may call the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service Catawba Center at 828-465-8240.